Planning Principles

1. **The crisis in Louisiana's coast is largely the result of human activity. Only a concerted effort now will stem this on-going catastrophe and thus alternatives must include measures which can be implemented in the near term and, provide some immediate benefits to the ecosystem, as well as those which require further development and refinement of techniques and approaches.**

2. **Appreciation of the natural dynamism of the coastal system must be integral to planning and the selection of preferred alternatives. This should include assessing the role of tropical storms, river floods, and droughts.**

Planning Principles

3. Alternatives that mimic natural processes and rely on natural cycles and processes for their operation and maintenance will be preferred.

4. Limited sediment availability is one of the constraints on system rehabilitation. Therefore, plan elements including mechanical sediment retrieval and placement may be considered where landscape objectives cannot be met using natural processes. Because sediment mining can contribute to ecosystem degradation in the source area, such alternatives should, to the extent practicable, maximize use of sediment sources outside the coastal ecosystem (e.g. from the Mississippi River or the Gulf of Mexico).

Planning Principles

5. **Plans will seek to achieve ecosystem sustainability and diversity while providing interchange and linkages among habitats.**

6. **Future rising sea levels and other global changes must be acknowledged and incorporated into planning and the selection of preferred alternatives.**

Planning Principles

7. **Displacement and dislocation of resources, infrastructure and possibly communities may be unavoidable under some scenarios. In the course of restoring a sustainable balance to the coastal ecosystem, sensitivity and fairness must be shown to those whose homes, lands, livelihoods, and ways of life may be adversely affected by the implementation of any selected alternatives.**

8. **The rehabilitation of the Louisiana coastal ecosystem will be an ongoing and evolving process. The selected plan must include an effective monitoring and evaluation process that reduces scientific uncertainty, assesses the success of the plan and supports adaptive management of plan implementation.**

Planning Principles

10. Recognizing that disturbed and degraded ecosystems can be vulnerable to invasion by invasive species, implementation needs to be coordinated with other state and federal programs addressing such invasions, and project designs shall promote conditions conducive to native species by incorporating features, where appropriate, to protect against invasion to the extent possible without diminishing project effectiveness.

11. Net nutrient uptake within the coastal ecosystem is maximized through increased residence time and the development of organic substrates, and thus project design should promote conditions that route riverine waters through estuarine basins and minimize nutrient export to shelf waters.